GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:1803
ANSWERED ON:04.12.2006
STOCK OF FOODGRAINS
Reddy Shri Karunakara G.

Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) The current stock of foodgrains in the country as on October 31, 2006;

(b) The quantum of foodgrains spoiled/rotten during the last three years alongwith the value thereof; and

(c) The reasons for not distributing the foodgrains stored in the godowns in various parts of the country among the poor people at subsidised rates?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD & PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (DR. AKHILESH PRASAD SINGH)

(a) : The stock of foodgrains (wheat and rice) as on 31.10.2006 in the Central Pool is as under :

(in lakh tones)

Stock in Central Pool	As on 31.10.2006
Rice	125.11
Wheat	59.94
Total	185.05

(b) : Accrual of damaged foodgrains with the FCI during the last three years is as under :

(in lakh MTs)

Year	Wheat	Rice	Value (Rs/crores)
2003-04	0.22	0.54	45.5
2004-05	0.12	0.85	54.6
2005-06	0.15	0.80	57.2
Total	0.49	2.19	157.3

(c) : The distribution of foodgrains under the Public Distribution System (PDS) is the joint responsibility of the Central and the State Governments. While the Central Government is responsible for procurement, storage, transportation and bulk allocation of foodgrains, the responsibility for effectively distributing the same to the consumers through the network of Fair Price Shops (FPSs) lies with the State Government. The Central Government has directed all the State Governments/Union Territories to ensure that the foodgrains (including wheat) allocated under the Targetted Public Distribution System (TPDS) are distributed amongst the actual beneficiaries of the TPDS.

The Food Corporation of India (FCI) has been carrying out various operations of foodgrains under the Central Pool on a massive scale and in diverse geographic and climatic conditions. For such enormous operations as in the FCI, and in adverse conditions, getting a normal quantity of stocks damaged during the normal course of operation cannot be ruled out altogether. Besides some other factors, generally stocks get damaged when stocks are retained for a long period inadvertently or when the observance of the principle of First-In-First-Out (FIFO) cannot be ensured in unavoidable circumstances.